

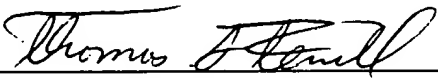
REMARKS

The remarks and amendments are to clarify the existing specification and to eliminate any ambiguity in the claims. The Examiner is being expressly put on notice that the amendments to the claims were not made to overcome the cited art. This note acts to overcome the presumption that any amendment to the claims is made in order to overcome the cited art. See Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., November 2000. Applicant respectfully submits that any modifications to the specification or the claims do not constitute new matter.

Consideration of the application as preliminarily amended is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 12-10-01, 2001


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VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS:

No amended claims.

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